

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/770,124

Examiner

James Mackey

Applicant(s)

WOBBE ET AL.

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1722

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☐ This communication is responsive to ____.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-22.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: ____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date ____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date ____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☒ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date 2/2/04; 12/22/04; 4/26/05
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date ____.
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other ____.

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1. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest a mold closing device comprising a central mold carrier element arranged between two outer mold mounting plates, the central mold carrier element including at least two opposing mold mounting areas and further including a turning device; a supporting frame supporting the turning device; a machine frame fixedly connected to the supporting frame and displaceably supporting the outer mold mounting plates, and columns extending through the supporting frame and connecting the outer mold mounting plates to one another; wherein one end of each column is fixedly secured on one of the outer mold mounting plates and the other end of the column includes a piston which is reversibly guided in a cylinder unit connected with the other mold mounting plate for executing an opening and closing motion and for producing a closing pressure, as claimed in claim 1, or wherein the supporting frame is C-shaped to include an opening that is open towards a loading/unloading side of the injection molding machine, as claimed in claim 11.

Japanese Patent Document 6-254906 is considered to be the closest prior art of record, disclosing a machine frame fixedly connected to a supporting frame 22 which supports a turning device of a central mold carrier element 23, two outer mold mounting plates 27, 28 displaceably supported on the machine frame on opposite sides of the central mold carrier element, and columns 34 extending through the supporting frame and connecting the outer mold mounting plates to one another when the molds are closed, wherein one end of each column is fixedly secured on one of the outer mold mounting plates, and the other end of each column is removably secured to a clamping cylinder 35 (via split nut 37) provided on the other outer mold mounting plate; however, Japan '906 does not disclose the other end of each column including a

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piston which is reversibly guided in a cylinder unit that is connected with the other outer mold mounting plate for executing an opening and closing motion and for producing a closing pressure (claim 1), and does not disclose the supporting frame being C-shaped to include an opening that is open towards a loading/unloading side (claim 11). While it is known in the prior art to utilize a piston-cylinder arrangement on a stationary outer mold mounting plate and attached to columns to pull an opposed displaceable outer mold mounting plate and an intermediate displaceable central mold carrier element into a closed position, thereby necessitating a separate opening cylinder for the central mold carrier element (see, e.g., JP 62-60618; EP 794,045; US 5,773,049), the prior art of record does not teach or fairly suggest such an arrangement with a stationary central mold carrier element intermediate two displaceable outer mold mounting plates.

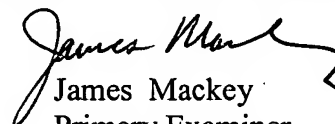
Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

2. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James Mackey whose telephone number is 571-272-1135. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F, 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Duane Smith can be reached on 571-272-1166. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


James Mackey
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 1722

9/25/05

jpm
September 25, 2005